Approved For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP81M00980R000800110027-3

SECRET

78-2037/2

OLC RECORD COPY

OLC #78-0049/5

Public Reports

18 AUG 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Frederick P. Hitz
Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT: GAO Reports on Reconnaissance/Intelligence Assets of the Department of Defense

25X1

1. [redacted] Action Requested: None, this is for your information only.

25X1

2. [redacted] Background: We have now received final versions of the GAO report entitled "Reconnaissance/Intelligence Assets of the Department of Defense." The report is in two volumes, one at the secret level and a supplement dealing with compartmented information.

25X1

3. [redacted] This is the same report we saw in draft and were invited to comment on last winter. After much internal discussion of this report in the context of an overall policy concerning relations with GAO, we did not make a formal reply. We informally advised GAO that we were not likely to make a detailed response to their study.

25X1

4. [redacted] Key aspects of this final version are as follows:

a. The secret volume has been distributed to Congress and the Department of Defense through normal channels for classified reports. The supplemental volume is going only to the Select Committees on Intelligence and the Department of Defense.

b. The general conclusion of the report is that national reconnaissance assets now in existence are neither designed or managed to maximize their use by tactical commanders during war. GAO recommends that Congress:

25X1

SECRET

Approved For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP81M00980R000800110027-3

Approved For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP81M00980R000800110027-3

--Require the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence to evaluate their currently established collection requirements, information, storage files, and data dissemination capabilities with a view to identifying the changes required to more effectively support the wartime requirements of the Department of Defense.

--Determine whether changes are needed in the degree of centralized control exercised by the National Security Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the Director of Central Intelligence over the collection systems to make the systems more responsible to the needs of both national and combat organizations.

--Determine whether changes are needed in the degree of investment devoted to improving collection versus the investment in advanced processing technology; analytic techniques; and tailored, timely reporting to the command levels.

c. GAO also recommends that the Secretary of Defense examine the vulnerability of Defense's reconnaissance assets and the impact on reconnaissance intelligence support caused by the implementation of the NATO wartime command structure.

d. The report states that the CIA was invited to comment on the report but declined to do so (page iii of main document); that the Director of Central Intelligence refused to provide comments on the report's substance on the grounds that such comments would indirectly recognize GAO authority to conduct audits of intelligence-related activities (page 55 of the main document); and that the supplement cannot present a complete evaluation of the resources possibly available to the Department of Defense because access to certain national systems and operating procedures was denied by the Director of Central Intelligence (preface to the supplement).

Approved For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP81M00980R000800110027-3

Approved For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP81M00980R000800110027-3

25X1 4. [redacted] Staff Position: We will make some low-key inquiries to see if any of the oversight committees are showing any interest in this study. We will also send our copies to [redacted] for their information. 25X1

25X1

(Signed)
Frederick P. Hitz

cc: D/DCI/RM
D/DCI/CT
DDS&T

Distribution:
Orig - DCI
1 - DDCI
1 - ER
1 - D/DCI/RM
1 - D/DCI/CT
1 - DDS&T
1 - OLC Record
1 - OLC Chrono
OLC/ELS/mg (15 Aug 78)

Approved For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP81M00980R000800110027-3